

PO Box 2027 • Minot, ND 58702 701-858-1200 • 1-800-737-9130

BUCKET FILE COPY ONIGNAL

July 24, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Room TW-B204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: USF Certification – FCC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Enclosed for filing in FCC Docket No. 96-45 is an Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Exhibit A certifying that all universal service support will only be used by the undersigned carrier for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The undersigned carrier has also filed this Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Exhibit A with the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and it is anticipated that the North Dakota Public Service Commission will also certify by October 1, 2007 that the undersigned carrier will only use said universal service support for its intended purpose. However, because of the importance of this issue, and the fast-approaching certification deadline of October 1, 2007, the undersigned carrier is also providing certification directly to the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the undersigned carrier continues to receive the universal service support for which it is eligible.

Signed,

Steven D. Lysne CEO/General Manager

389004

Date: 7/24/07

North Dakota Network Company

North Dakota

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 1 Liet ABCDE

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (the Company), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

- 1. The Company will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and
- 2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, if service can be provided at a reasonable cost by:
 - a. Modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment;
 - b. Deploying a roof-mounted antenna or other equipment;
 - Adjusting the nearest cell tower;
 - d. Adjusting network or customer facilities;
 - e. Reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service; or
 - f. Employing, leasing, or constructing an additional cell site, cell extender, repeater, or other similar equipment.
- 3. The Company is able to remain functional in emergency situations and has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.
- 4. The Company is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. (If wireless service is involved, the Company has and will comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for wireless service. If a wireless service complies with another standard, that is explained herein.)
- 5. If the Company is a non-incumbent local exchange carrier, it will offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the designated service area.

- 6. The Company acknowledges that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the proposed designated service area. (If wireless carriage is involved, the Company acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require the Company to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the designated service area.)
- 7. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:
 - a. A full description of available services in the Company's official telephone directory, including the process to be used by customers to qualify for lifeline and link-up service.
 - b. Advertising of the availability of universal service in media of general circulation in the Company's designated service area. Availability may be advertised in newspapers, company newsletters, company or civic internet sites, bill stuffers, direct mailings, or other means intended to convey availability throughout the designated service area.

Exhibit A Information

The following information is provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference:

- 1. A description of the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the Company in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services. (An explanation of any changes from reports previously provided to the Commission is also included.)
- 2. An estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the Company anticipates receiving in the following calendar year (the calendar year following this report) and a description of how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- 3. Exhibit A also contains, for the prior calendar year and the subsequent calendar year (the calendar year following this report), identification of specific construction or upgrade projects; a description of how service will be improved by each project; the start date and completion date for each improvement; the amount of investment for cash improvement; the specific geographic area where each improvement was made or will be made; and the estimated population that will be served by each improvement. (For an

incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), this information is submitted at the study area level. For another eligible carrier, this information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC. If a study area level or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also submitted at the North Dakota level.)

- 4. Detailed information of any outage, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration for each designated service area for any facilities the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:
 - a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
 - b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e).

This report includes:

- a. The date and time of the onset of the outage,
- b. A brief description of the outage and its resolution,
- c. The particular services affected,
- d. The geographic areas affected by the outage,
- e. Steps taken to prevent a similar outage in the future, and
- f. The number of customers affected.

(If applicable, a copy of the FCC outrage report that includes this information may be attached.)

- 5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.
 - 6. The number of complaints per thousand handsets or lines.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct and is submitted on behalf of the Company named below. The information is submitted in the year 2007.

Nath Dakota Network Co.

Company

By: A C. 10

Its: CEO/GM

EXHIBIT A

NORTH DAKOTA NETWORK CO.

The amount of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. received in the prior calendar year and estimate of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar yethe date of this report) are listed below:

Year 2006 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

| High Cost Loop Support | \$ 260,445 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Local Switching Support | \$ 233,199 |
| Interstate Common Line Support | \$ 797,964 |
| Safety Net Additive Support | \$ 0 |
| Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment | \$ 0 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1.291.608 |

Estimated Year 2008 Federal Universal Service Receipts:

| High Cost Loop Support | \$ | 200,000 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Local Switching Support | \$ | 250,000 |
| Interstate Common Line Support | \$ | 850,000 |
| Safety Net Additive Support | \$ | 0 |
| Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment | \$_ | 0 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 1,300,000 |

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:

(For 2007, there are none. This is the first reporting year.)

<u>Prior Year's Support (2006)</u>. The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, mupgrading of North Dakota Network Co.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

| | Actual |
|---|---------------------|
| | 2006 |
| Specific Operations Expenses | |
| ork support (Accts 6110-16) | \$ 0 |
| ral support (Accts 6120-24) | \$ 9,484 |
| al office (Accts 6210-6232) | \$ 506,219 |
| and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41) | \$ 46,957 |
| ork operations (Accts 6530-35) | \$ 146,779 |
| ciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65) | \$2,978,231 |
| mer Operations Expenses | |
| mer services (Accts 6620-23) | \$ 330,609 |
| orate Operations Expenses | |
| tive and planning (Accts 6710-12) | \$ 1,348 |
| ral and administrative (Accts 6720-28) | \$ 81,037 |
| Years Supported Expenses, Before n on Investment | \$4,100,664 |
| ions | ¢4 242 240 |
| hing (Acct 2210) | \$4,242,319 |
| and wire (Acct 2410) | \$ 0 \$4.242.340 |
| | \$4,242,319 |
| Supported Expenditures, Before n on Investment | \$8,342,983 |
| | |

th Dakota Network Co.'s 2006 specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

(If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is pr North Dakota level.)

| istruction Upgrade ect Name | Start Date | Completion Date | Amount of Investment | Geographic Area of Improvement | Estimated Population Served by Improvement | Descrip of How S Will Be Im |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| uildouts (4) | Apr 06 | Nov 06 | \$1,259,154 | SRT Communications, Inc. Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater covera 299. Fills coverage area. |
| ced ss Service | May 06 | Oct 06 | \$ 185,210 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Enhanced servito all PCS subs |
| Data es | Apr 06 | Dec 06 | \$1,103,922 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Offer wireless subscribers - service offering |
| Messaging sion | Dec 06 | Dec 06 | \$ 49,724 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Enhanced Tex Services |
| ators (3) | Nov 06 | Dec 06 | \$ 74,419 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Service reliabilit subscribers |
| uildouts (2) | Apr 06 | Nov 06 | \$ 481,520 | Reservation Telephone Coop Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater covera 299, expands scopes, and fi coverage area. |
| uildout (1) | Apr 06 | Nov 06 | \$ 279,464 | North Dakota Telephone Company Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater covera 299, expands scopes, and fi coverage area. |

| uildout (1) | Apr 06 | Nov 06 | \$ 289,720 | West River Telecom Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater cover 299, expands scope, and fi coverage area. |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| uildout (1) | Apr 06 | Nov 06 | \$ 289,720 | Turtle Mountain Communications Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater cover 299, expands scope, and fi coverage area. |
| el Element e Card itions | Jul 06 | Jul 06 | \$ 229,466 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Enhance capa in a cell site |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 006 Actual | | | \$ 4,242,319 | | | |

| \$ \$ | 0 | |
|----------|--|---|
| \$ | | |
| | 10,000 | |
| \$ | 532,000 | |
| \$ | 49,000 | |
| \$ | 154,000 | |
| \$3 | ,127,000 | |
| | | |
| \$ | 347,000 | |
| | | |
| \$ | 1,000 | |
| \$ | 85,000 | |
| ¢Λ | 305.000 | |
| Φ-1 | ,303,000 | |
| | | |
| \$ | 2,675,000 | |
| \$ | 0 | |
| \$2 | 2,675,000 | |
| \$6 | 6,980,000 | |
| | \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ | \$ 532,000 \$ 49,000 \$ 154,000 \$3,127,000 \$ 347,000 \$ 1,000 \$ 85,000 \$4,305,000 \$2,675,000 |

North Dakota Network Co.'s 2008 estimated construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

(If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is pro North Dakota level.)

| nstruction Upgrade ject Name | Start Date | Completion Date | Amount of Investment | Geographic Area of Improvement | Estimated Population Served by Improvement | Description of How Servi Will Be Impro |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| uildouts (5) | Apr 08 | Nov 08 | \$1,750,000 | SRT Communications Inc. Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater coverage in expands local calling fills gap(s) in coverage |
| s Switch e | Jan 08 | Jan 08 | \$ 200,000 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | | Routine upgrade switch |
| | Jan 08 | Dec 08 | \$ 300,000 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | | Faster, more enhand internet |
| tors | Nov 08 | Dec 08 | \$ 75,000 | All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299 | ì | Service reliability for subscribers |
| uildout (1) | Apr 08 | Nov 08 | \$ 350,000 | Turtle Mountain Communications Study Area | Entire BTA299 116,000 | Greater coverage in E expands, local calling fills gap(s) in coverage |
| | | | | | | |
| 008 | | | \$2,675,000 | | | |

Outages. Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minute of each designated service area for any facility which North Dakota Network Co. owns, operates, leases, or otherwise potentially affect: No outages occurred that met the definition of 47.C.F.R. § 4.5.

- At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
- A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45(e).

| and of set | Brief Description of Outage and Resolution of Outage | Particular Services Affected | Geographic Area Affected By Outage | Steps Taken to Prevent Similar Outages in the Future | |
|------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Nesotation of Courge | Ancolou | by outage | Outages in the Future | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | · | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | 44 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| " | | | | | |
| | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | | |

FCC outage reports were filed showing this information, they may be attached instead.)

| the pa | st year was: Un <mark>su</mark> does not have s | re of the specific ignal in a certai | number of rec n area, SRT re | quests, but if a c views the locati | nated service area the customer questions to determine if the spot for a cell site. |
|-------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | • | · | | al customers are, as f |
| | | | | | |
| | | · | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | · | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |